

**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

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1. (Currently Amended) An improved electronically stored font for use in a electrostatographic machine, comprising:

a font representation; and

a non-printing "black" auxiliary pixel embedded in the font representation exterior to the font image shape to improve the development of font detail or solve leading edge deletion in the printing of the font.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Original) The improved font of claim 1, wherein the font representation is a bit map type.

5. (Original) The improved font of claim 1, wherein the font representation is a contour type.

6. (Original) The improved font of claim 1, wherein the font representation is a spline-knot type.

7. (Original) The improved font of claim 1, wherein the font representation is a meta type.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for improving the printing of a text image, comprising:

receiving text data; and

processing the text data with a font representation including embedded non-printing "black" auxiliary pixels therein, the "black" auxiliary pixels being arranged by the font representation so as to be exterior to the font image shape so as to improve the development of font areas of detail or solve leading edge deletion in the printing of the font.

Q. 9. (Original) The method for improving the printing of image text of claim 9, wherein the step of processing includes using a font representation of a bit map type.

10. (Original) The method for improving the printing of image text of claim 9, wherein the step of processing includes using a font representation of a contour type.

11. (Original) The method for improving the printing of image text of claim 9, wherein the step of processing includes using a font representation of a spline-knot type.

12. (Original) The method for improving the printing of image text of claim 9, wherein the step of processing includes using a font representation of a meta type.

13. (Currently Amended) In a digital imaging system, a method for optimizing a rendition of a text image, comprising:

receiving text data; and

processing the text data with a font representation including therein embedded non-printing "black" auxiliary pixels the "black" auxiliary pixels being arranged by the font representation so as to be exterior to the font image shape so as to improve the development of font areas of detail or solve leading edge deletion in the rendition of the text image.

Q1 14. (Original) The digital imaging system of claim 13, wherein the step of processing comprises generating image text using a processing system including a digital front end.

15. (Original) The digital imaging system of claim 14, wherein the step of generating uses bit map font representation.

16. (Original) The digital imaging system of claim 14, wherein the step of generating uses contour font representation.

17. (Original) The digital imaging system of claim 14, wherein the step of generating uses spline-knot font representation.

18. (Original) The digital imaging system of claim 14, wherein the step of generating uses meta font representation.

19. (Currently Amended) The digital imaging system of claim 15, wherein the bit map font representation has "black" auxiliary pixels as previously stored therein.

20. (Currently Amended) The digital imaging system of claim 15, wherein the bit map font representation has "black" auxiliary pixels inserted therein by a method comprising:

stepping a  $n \times n$  window across each pixel location in the bit map;

counting the number of "on" pixels in the window; and

comparing that number against a set threshold number to determine if that location is in an area of font detail.